higher levels compared to those obtaining last year. The wholesale price of coconut in Rajahmundry (East Godavari District) which was Rs. *2200/-* per thousand nuts in December 1995, has gone up to Rs. 2800/- per thousand nuts during December 19%.

Implementation of Arid Zone Fruits Scheme in Gujarat

3095. SHRI AHMED PATEL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Centrally sponsored integrated development of tropical temperate and arid zone fruits scheme is being implemented by the Government in Gujarat;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the financial incentives given to the farmers of the State for area expansion under the scheme;

(d) the year-wise and district-wise details thereof for the last three years;

(e) whether any substantial increase has been noticed in the fruit production in the State after the implementation of the scheme; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. During 8th Plan an allocation of Rs. 385.84 lakhs has been made under this scheme for Gujarat for (i) establishing 5 big nurseries, 15 small nurseries and 2 tissue culture units (ii) area expansion in 2372 ha (iii) improving productivity/rejuvination of 7050 ha of old Orchards and (iv) demonstration, training of farmers and publicity materials.

(c) Under area expansion component of the scheme, assistance is being given to the farmers @50% of the cost of cultivation ranging from Rs. 6000/- to Rs. 60,000 per ha. depending on the type of fruit crops involved for an area of 0.5 ha. per beneficiary.

(d) The area expansion under this scheme was implemented from 1994-95. Hence, the year-wise and district-wise details for the last two years are given in Statement, *(see* below)

(e) and (f) No study has been conducted to estimate the impact of this scheme on production. However, total fruit production in Gujarat has increased from 18.35 lakh tonnes during 1991-92 to 25.66 lakh tonnes in 1995-96.

Statement

The year-wise and district-wise details of area expansion programme implemented under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme on integrated development of tropical, temperate and arid zone fruits in Gujarat

Sl. No.	District	1994-95		1995-96	
		Area in Hectare	Expenditure Rs. in Lakhs	Area in Hectare	Expenditure Rs. in Lakhs
1.	Amreli	19.24	0.72	53.19	2.21
2.	Kautch	2.80	0.04	—	—
3.	Kheda	105.91	5.24	106.50	5.19
4.	Gandhinagar	22.90	0.88	11.70	0.43
5.	Panchmahal	19.25	0.77	—	—
6.	Banaskantha	1.52	0.58	2.80	0.12
7.	Bharuch	72.30	3.62	91.60	4.64
8.	Bhavnagar	32.98	1.41	31.70	1.56

Sl. No.	District	1994-95		1995-96	
		Area in Hectare	Expenditure Rs. in Lakhs	Area in Hectare	Expenditure Rs. in Lakhs
9.	Mahesana	41.40	1.15	—	0.14
10.	Rajkot	4.02	0.16	7.00	0.12
11.	Vadodara	81.37	3.86	82.83	4.25
12.	Valsad	—	—	1.00	0.05
13.	Sabarkantha	15.73	0.37	—	0.03
14.	Surat	74.41	3.30	72.20	3.22
15.	Surendranagar	3.19	0.13	4.00	0.13
	TOTAL:	497.02	22.23	464.52	22.09

Availability of GATT Benefits to the Farmers

3096. SHRI TARA CHARAN MAJUMDAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether availability of GATT benefits to farmers has been reported to be under doubt; and

(b) if so, the steps proposed to be taken by Government to remove these apprehensions?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA): (a) and (b) The central feature of GATT Agreement on agriculture is the reduction in the production subsidies paid by the developed countries to their farmers and the rolling back of some of the non-tariff barriers which have restricted agricultural trade. These measures will benefit India as its agricultural exports enjoy a comparative and competitive advantage. The rights of the farmers, plant breeders and researchers would be protected under the agreement on trade related Intellectual Property Rights.

For agricultural products, tariffs have been bound by India at 100% on primary products, at 150% on processed products and 300% on edible oils and the current duty rates in respect of most favoured nations are within the bound rates.

Study regarding the effect of ODS on Ozone Layer

3097. SHRI SANJAY DALMIA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any study has been conducted in regard to the effect of Ozone Depleting Substances (ODS) like clorofluorocarbon (CFSs) on the Ozone layer;

(b) if so, the findings thereof; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Govt to protect the Ozone layer from the indiscriminate use of Ozone Depleting Substances?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (CAPTAIN JAI NARAIN PRASAD NISHAD); (a) and (b) Scientific Assessment Panel of United Nations Environment Programm (UNEP), comprising experts from different countries, have assessed the effects of Ozone Depleting Substances (ODS) on the Ozone Layer. According to their report, depletion of the Ozone Layer in middle-and high-latitudes is largely due to man-made chlorine and bromine compounds.

(c) India has ratified the Montreal Protocol on Substance that Deplete the Ozone Layer. The Protocol requires that